



Oregon Department of Agriculture

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF MIDDLE-OF-THE-SUPPLY-CHAIN?

The food supply chain involves the following stages: 1. Production, 2. Processing, 3. Aggregation/Distribution, and 4. Markets/Consumers. For the purposes of RFSI, “middle-of-the-supply-chain” refers to the middle stages: 2. Processing and 3. Aggregation/Distribution. For additional information on middle-of-the-supply-chain activities, refer to the RFSI Project Scope and Requirements, section 1.5.6 Infrastructure Grants – Projects Eligible for Funding.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT?

An Infrastructure Grant is a subaward that will fund projects to expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of targeted agricultural project.

WHAT ARE THE USDA DEFINITIONS OF THE 25% GRDAUTED MATCH GROUPS?

Historically Underserved Farmer or Rancher: Four groups are defined by USDA as “Historically Underserved,” including farmers or ranchers who are: Beginning; Socially Disadvantaged; Veterans; and Limited Resource as described at “Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers” | Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov).

Beginning Farmer or Rancher: is an individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.

Small Disadvantaged Business: A business that is small according to SBA’s size standards for its business type and that is 51% or more owned and controlled by one or more disadvantaged persons. The disadvantaged person or persons must be socially disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged. For the purposes of this designation, disadvantaged persons is defined per eCFR :: 13 CFR 124.103 -- “Who is socially disadvantaged?” as “Those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social

disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control.” See "Small Disadvantaged Business" (sba.gov) for more information.

Veteran Farmer or Rancher: is a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof, was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable, and has not operated a farm or ranch or has operated a farm or ranch for no more than 10 years or who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10- year period.

Veteran-Owned Small Business: A small business, as defined by the SBA size standard for its business type that has no less than 51% of the business owned and controlled by one or more veterans. For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify if their spouse or appointed, permanent caregiver is assisting in that management. See "Veteran contracting assistance programs" (sba.gov) for more information.

Women-Owned Small Business: A small business according to SBA size standards for its business type that is at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens; and have women manage day-to-day operations who also make long-term decisions. See "Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract program" (sba.gov) for more information.

APPLICATION

[ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT TEMPLATE, SHOULD THE DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES INDEX \(DCI\) INCLUDE ZIP CODE OR COUNTY DATA?](#)

The DCI data should be at county level.

[IF INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION, WILL THE PROJECTS NEED TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT \(NEPA\)?](#)

Yes, any application that may have ground disturbing activities needs to comply with NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and other state, local and tribal laws.

[DO INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICANTS/GRANTEES NEED A UNIQUE ENTITY ID \(UEI\) IN SAM.GOV?](#)

Yes, Subawardees are required to obtain a UEI in SAM.gov prior to being issued a subaward.

[DO INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICANTS HAVE TO PAY TO OBTAIN A UEI IN SAM.GOV?](#)

No, there is NO cost to register in SAM.gov. If you receive notification on having to pay to renew your account beware that it is likely a SCAM and should be reported to the appropriated authorities.



ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

CAN A PRODUCER BUY PROCESSING EQUIPMENT THAT WILL ONLY BENEFIT THEIR OWN BUSINESS OR DOES IT NEED TO BENEFIT MORE THAN ONE ENTITY?

Yes, a producer can buy equipment that benefits their own business. Projects that benefit an individual producer may be less competitive than a similar project that benefits multiple producers.

ARE NON-PROFITS ELIGIBLE FOR THE 25% GRADUATED MATCHING?

Yes, as long as the non-profit qualifies as one of the following: Beginning Farmer or Rancher, Veteran Farmer or Rancher, Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, Small Disadvantages Business, Women-Owned Small Business, Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers.

ELIGIBLE CROPS

IS SHRIMP AN ELIGIBLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT? FOR EXAMPLE, THE SHRIMP ARE GROWN IN CONTAINERS AND NOT "WILD CAUGHT".

Projects that expand capacity for the middle of the supply chain of aquaculture products are eligible for funding. USDA defines aquaculture as the production of aquatic organisms under controlled conditions throughout part or all their lifecycle. Wild-caught seafood is an ineligible product.

ARE PROJECTS THAT FOCUS ON CANNABIS PRODUCTS MADE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR RFSI FUNDING?

No, plants federally controlled as illegal drug plants (e.g. cannabis) are ineligible. This is in addition to the eligibility requirements outlined in RFSI Program Scope and Requirements.

ALLOWABLE / UNALLOWABLE COSTS

CAN FUNDS BE USED FOR FOOD PRODUCTION RELATED ACTIVITIES?

No, funds cannot be used for production activities/costs including farm equipment, tools, supplies, gardening, or production related labor/training. Please note that in accordance with the Program Scope and Requirements, on-farm post-harvest processing, preservation, and storage/cold storage are allowable activities.

CAN FUNDS BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION?

RFSI funds may be used for improvements, rearrangements, or alterations of an existing building or facility to use a space more effectively and to accommodate new or upgraded equipment and processes. Funds may also be used for new construction of buildings or structural changes to an existing building/



facility resulting in a square foot expansion or requiring changes to the building's floor, foundation, and exterior or load bearing walls.

CAN I USE FUNDS TO PURCHASE LAND OR BUILDINGS?

No. It is unallowable to use grant funds for the acquisition of buildings, facilities, or land.

CAN FUNDS BE USED TO PURCHASE VEHICLES?

Special purpose vehicles relevant to the scope of work on an Infrastructure Grant project, such as delivery vehicles or refrigerated trucks, are allowable. However, the purchase of a general use vehicles is not allowable. Please see the RFSI Program Specific Terms and Conditions for more information on general use and special purpose equipment.

CAN FUNDS BE USED TO REPAIR AND/OR UPGRADE EXISTING EQUIPMENT?

Yes. Funds may be used to repair or update existing equipment.

WHAT RETAIL RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Eligible retail related activities can include creating distribution channels to new retail opportunities, or expanding processing and packaging capacities, including adding product types, increasing production volumes, and supporting new retail product lines.

MATCHING FUNDS

WHAT IS COST SHARING OR MATCHING?

Cost sharing or matching is the portion of project costs not paid by the Federal funds, which could be cash and/or in-kind contributions. Cash can be a financial outlay, or cash donations from non-Federal third parties. In-kind can be the value of non-cash contributions typically in the form of value of personnel, goods, and services, including direct and indirect costs. Other Federal funds cannot be used as match. (See 2 CFR §§ 200.1 and 200.306.)

DOES THE RFSI PROGRAM REQUIRE COST SHARING OR MATCHING?

Yes, Infrastructure Grant Recipients require a match. The program requires cost sharing or matching of 50% of the project cost as a match to federal funding. For underserved farmers and ranchers, a reduced match contribution is required at 25% of the project costs.

HOW SHOULD AN APPLICANT DOCUMENT IF THEY QUALIFY FOR REDUCED MATCH?

Qualifying applicants for the Infrastructure Grant projects will self-certify their eligibility for the 25% reduced match to 25%. Please review the Infrastructure Grant Template for more information on self-certification.

CAN UNALLOWABLE COSTS BE BROUGHT AS AN IN-KIND OR COST SHARE MATCH?



No. Only costs allowable under Subpart E of the Cost Principles can be brought as a match. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.306.

CAN DONATED LABOR/PERSONNEL TIME COUNT AS IN-KIND MATCH?

Labor/personnel time may be used as a match for the percentage of time the person is working on the project. For example, if someone is only spending 15% of their time working on the project, then you can only bring that 15% to the project as a match. Also, you must ensure that what you would normally pay that individual is reasonable according to standard personnel rates for similar positions in your geographic locality.

CAN UNRECOVERED INDIRECT COST BE USED AS PART OF THE COST SHARING OR MATCHING?

Yes, it is allowable to use unrecovered indirect costs as part of cost sharing or matching. Unrecovered indirect cost means the difference between the amount charged to the Federal award and the amount that could have been charged to the Federal award under the potential recipients approved negotiated indirect cost rate.

CAN AN INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL EXCEED THE APPLICABLE MATCH REQUIREMENT?

Yes. Infrastructure Grant recipients can provide more than the required match. However, this will not provide any advantage during the Technical Review of the applications. Any amount exceeding the required match will be considered “Voluntary Committed Cost Share” as defined in 2 CFR §200.1 and 2 CFR §200.306 . Voluntary Committed Cost Share means cost sharing specifically pledged on a voluntary basis in the proposal's budget on the part of the non-Federal entity and that becomes a binding requirement of Federal award.

DOES THE \$2M AWARD CAP INCLUDE MATCHING FUNDS? I.E. CAN AN APPLICANT REQUEST \$2M IN GRANT DOLLARS AND PROVIDE A 50% MATCH OF \$2M FOR A TOTAL PROJECT OF \$4M OR IS \$2M THE LIMIT FOR TOTAL PROJECT COSTS WITH A 1M GRANT AWARD AND A 1M MATCH?

No, the \$2M award cap does not include the in-kind/matching funds from the Infrastructure Grant recipient. An Infrastructure Grant applicant can apply for up to \$2M of RFSI funding and will be required to provide the matching funds.

CAN DONATED RENTAL SPACE OR LAND BE CONSIDERED IN-KIND MATCH? FOR EXAMPLE, A CITY DONATES LAND TO AN APPLICANT TO BUILD A PROCESSING/AGGREGATION COLD STORAGE FACILITY.

Yes and No. Acquired real property, including land, is an unallowable cost and therefore cannot be used to meet the match requirement. Rental costs are an allowable cost and may be used to meet match requirements.

WHAT ARE THE USDA DEFINITIONS OF THE 25% GRDAUTED MATCH GROUPS?

Historically Underserved Farmer or Rancher: Four groups are defined by USDA as “Historically Underserved,” including farmers or ranchers who are: Beginning; Socially



Disadvantaged; Veterans; and Limited Resource as described at "Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers" | Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov).

Beginning Farmer or Rancher: is an individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.

Small Disadvantaged Business: A business that is small according to SBA's size standards for its business type and that is 51% or more owned and controlled by one or more disadvantaged persons. The disadvantaged person or persons must be socially disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged. For the purposes of this designation, disadvantaged persons is defined per eCFR :: 13 CFR 124.103 -- "Who is socially disadvantaged?" as "Those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control." See "Small Disadvantaged Business" (sba.gov) for more information.

Veteran Farmer or Rancher: is a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof, was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable, and has not operated a farm or ranch or has operated a farm or ranch for no more than 10 years or who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10- year period.

Veteran-Owned Small Business: A small business, as defined by the SBA size standard for its business type that has no less than 51% of the business owned and controlled by one or more veterans. For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify if their spouse or appointed, permanent caregiver is assisting in that management. See "Veteran contracting assistance programs" (sba.gov) for more information.

Women-Owned Small Business: A small business according to SBA size standards for its business type that is at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens; and have women manage day-to-day operations who also make long-term decisions. See "Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract program" (sba.gov) for more information.

